

THE PASSAGE FROM THE WORLD

of every created thing outside of God ; because the heart cannot be given completely to God, unless it be free, open, pure, and single ; and that she had chiefly striven to do this, with great solicitude, being desirous to seek God by the way of suffering.

" She said, further, that she kept the eye of her understanding steadfast in a light of living feith, holding for certain that whatever happened to her or to others proceeded from God, through the great love that He bears His creatures, and not through hate. And thence she acquired and conceived a love and a readiness for holy obedience to the commands of God and those of her superiors, thinking that all their commands proceeded from God, either for the necessity of her salvation or for the increase of virtue in her soul. And she added : ' This I say, in the sight of my sweet Creator : I have never in the least degree sinned against obedience, through His goodness.'

" Next, she said that God had made her see that she could never come to perfection, nor acquire in herself any true virtue, without the means of humble, faithful, and continuous prayer ; saying : ' This is the mother which conceives and nourishes all virtues in the soul ; and without her they all grow weak and fail.' Very much did she exhort us to be zealous in prayer, defining two kinds of prayers, vocal and mental. To vocal prayer, she said, we should apply ourselves at fixed hours ; but to mental prayer, continuously; ever striving to know ourselves and the great goodness of God towards us. She said, also, that, in order to attain to purity of mind, it was necessary to abstain utterly from every judgment of our neighbour and from every empty talk about his doings, but always to consider the will of God in His creature ; adding, with great emphasis : ' On no account must we judge the will of a creature ; even if we see a thing to be a manifest sin, we must not pass judgment upon it, but, in holy and true compassion, offer it up to God with humble and devout prayer.' And on another occasion, speaking upon this point, she declared to the father of her soul that never, for any persecution, murmuring, detraction, injury, or insult, that had been said or in any way done to her, had anything ever entered